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Safety Alert

Nº 6 2000

## Fatal Fireworks Explosion

### Issue

This Safety Alert warns all fireworks suppliers, manufacturers and display permit holders of a potential hazard in using metal mortars, tubes, frames and other metal equipment to fire, restrain or otherwise be in the proximity to fireworks discharged at a fireworks display.

### Background / Contributing Factors

Workplace Standards Tasmania has been advised by the Queensland Department of Mines and Energy of a serious fireworks incident on 20th May 2000, resulting in a fatality and a number of spectators being critically or seriously injured.

The incident occurred when a roman candle type firework (ground display firework) apparently detonated on ignition inside a steel supporting tube. Fragments of the steel tube were projected into the spectator area with tragic consequences.

### Action to be taken

Until further information is obtained as to the cause of the accident, metal mortars, tubes, frames, pickets, stands and other types of metal equipment associated with fireworks displays are prohibited for use. They should be replaced with suitable alternative materials such as plastics (high density polyethylene), paper wound tubes or other non fragmenting materials.

Tasmania has placed an embargo on the importation and sale of the following type of firework.

**2 inch - 8 Shot White Display Candles**  
(Imported from Sunsong Fireworks, China).

If you would like further information contact Workplace Standards Tasmania on:

Telephone: **1300 366 322** (inside Tasmania) or (03) 6233 7657 (outside Tasmania),

Fax: (03) 6233 8338

Email: [wstinfo@dier.tas.gov.au](mailto:wstinfo@dier.tas.gov.au)

Internet: [www.wsa.tas.gov.au](http://www.wsa.tas.gov.au)

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Robert Kent", is written over a horizontal dotted line.

Robert Kent  
Acting Chief Inspector  
Workplace Standards Tasmania  
June 2000